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THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF BURKE. By John MacCunn, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy in the University of Liverpool. London: Edward Arnold, 1913. Pp. vi, 272.

This is not a book about which it is possible to say much in a review. And that not, of course, out of any disrespect to the author, but because Professor MacCunn has performed the task he has set himself about as well as it could be done. He has collected all the evidence which is scattered through the voluminous published works of Burke, and skillfully welded it into a whole, showing convincingly that Burke really had a consistent and systematic political creed, even though he never formulated it explicitly even, perhaps, to himself, and that his views on particular political questions were all formed under the influence of this creed. As far as the performance of this task goes, Professor MacCunn's work is open to no serious criticism.

All that we can say is that on some subjects we should have liked more. It would, perhaps, have been out of place for the author to have given us more of his own views on the subjects discussed, though when he does give them to us, as in his reflections on Democracy in the last chapter, they are so suggestive and illuminating that no one would have objected to more of such intrusions. But a more serious deficiency is the lack of a complete historical background for Burke's own views. We want a completer account of the political situation, of the different forces at work, of the views that excited Burke's antagonism, and of the effect he had on subsequent political thinking. Burke was so much the product of his age, his views were formed so much under the stimulus of immediate practical controversies, that a complete analysis of the spirit and situation of the time seems particularly called for in his case. But such a criticism does not detract from the real value of the book. As far as it goes, it is really complete.

I have noticed one misprint. On page 119, in the fifth line, "undetermined" is clearly a mistake for "undermined."

The University, Manchester.

G. C. FIELD.

THE YEAR-BOOK OF SOCIAL PROGRESS FOR 1913-14. London: Thomas Nelson & Sons. Pp. 595.

This annual, now in the second year of its existence, is a work which should be in the hands of all who are interested in